Minimum Support Prices (MSP) fixed by the Government have been significantly enhanced recently and the Food Corporation of India has expanded its procurement operations. In the case of commodities which are not covered under MSP, the market intervention Scheme is being operated through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation. Further, the Government have announced a series of concessions to offset the impact of increase the prices of fertilisers.

Tornado in Murshidabad distict of West Bengal

*91. CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a tornado lashed five villages near Kandi in Murshidbad district in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the extent of loss of life and property caused thereby;

(c) whether any relief has been provided by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof. and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to rehabilitate the affected villages and also to see that the people are forwarned about such natural calamities in future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) to (e) A tornado hit some areas on 3th April, 1993 in 5 villages in Kandi Sub-Division of Murshidabad. The extent of damage to life and property as reported by Government of West Bengal is as under:—

Number of persons died .	49
Number of persons injured .	630
Number of cattle dead .	414
Number of houses damaged .	1883
Cropped area affected . .	450 hectares

Rs. 12.00 lakhs has been provided to the Government of West Bengal from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for providing relief @ Rs 20,000|- each to the families of deceased in the tornado. Besides Rs. 10,000|- has been sanctioned to the families of each deceased from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund apart from providing relief to the affected families in the form of utensils. tarpaulins, clothing, milk, dry food and other materials.

The State Government has prepared a Scheme for reconstruction of houses damaged during this calamity. In addition, an amount of Rs. 742 lakhs has been sanctioned by Government of West Bengal as housing grant for the damaged houses.

According to information received from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) there is no method of issuing tornado warnings indicating exact time and place of occurrence sufficiently in advance as these are very short-lived transient phenomena with random occurrences. India Meteorological Department issues only thunderstorm warnings whenever such situations are expected.

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग द्वारा रानी दुर्गावती विश्वविद्यालय जबलपुर को अनुदान

*92. श्री शिव प्रसाद हरदिया : क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजनावधि के दौरान रानी दुर्गावती विश्वविद्यालय जबलपुर को विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग द्वारा प्रदान की गई धनराशि का मद-वार ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) विकास अनुदान मद के अन्तर्गत प्रदान की गई राशि में से किस उपकरण का आयात किया गया है और उस के आयात पर कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा व्यय की गई है ; और

(ग) विश्वविद्यालय में आयातित उपकरण का उपयोग किस प्रकार किया जा रहा है ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन सिंह) : (क) विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग द्वारा भेजी गई सूचना के अनुसार 7वीं योजना अवधि के दौरान रानी दुर्गावती विश्वविद्यालय, जबलपुर को आयोग द्वारा निम्नलिखित विकास अनुदान आबंटित किए गए थे :—

(लाख रुपए में)

	आबंटित अनुदान	प्रदान किए गये अनुदान
1. शैक्षिक स्टाफ	26.00	35.83*
2. उपस्कर	35.33	35.33
3. पुस्तक और पत्रिकाएं	22.80	22.80
4. भवन	33.92	26.25
5. उपस्कर के लिए विशेष सहायता	40.00	40.00
6. पुस्तकालय के लिए विशेष सहायता	10.00	10.00
	168.05	170.21

*विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा किए गए वास्तविक खर्च पर आधारित

(ख) और (ग) : विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग द्वारा दी गई विकास सहायता में से विश्वविद्यालयों द्वारा उपस्करों की प्राप्ति अथवा उनके उपयोग से संबंधित सूचना आयोग द्वारा नहीं रखी जाती है ।

Lack of adequate funds for Universities

*93. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all Universities in the country are facing the resource crunch; if so, what steps are being taken to improve the situation;

(b) whether Government are aware that several Universities have been forced to curtail their academic activities because of financial difficulties;

(c) whether Government propose to privatise University education, if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) whether the Universities have been asked to generate their own resources and if so in what manner, and how are the Universities supposed to meet the present shortfall in the resources?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Central Universities are set up by Acts of Parliament and their entire development and maintenance expenditure is met by the Government through UGC. In the case of State Universities, the maintenance grants are fully provided by the respective State Governments. UGC only provides development grants to the State Universities, in accordance with the prescribed norms, and that too only for a part of their requirements. It is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government to provide reasonable level of Plan and